



CACTUS CHRONICLE

Mission Statement:

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study and enjoyment of cacti and succulent plants through educational programs and activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts and among the greater public.

CSSA Affiliate

Next Meeting

Thursday
August 6th, 2015
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91356

Doors Open
at 6:15 pm

Meeting begins
at 7:00pm

Refreshments
U thru Z

New Members

Diane Lerner
Lisa Kornblith
Roberta & Ben Morowitz
Janice Berru
M.A. Djarkman

Phyllis Frieze, Editor
Frieze.phyllis@
Yahoo.com

Email:
Lacactus.com

Program: The 2008 CSSA trip to Brazil: The Plants of the Northeastern State of Bahia" Presented by: Nels Christianson

The 2008 CSSA trip to the Brazilian states of Bahia and Minas Gerais provided Nels the opportunity to widen his broad experience of Brazilian flora, geography and culture. The trip started in rainy Salvador, Bahia's seaside capital and capital of colonial Brazil for over 200 years. In Bahia's 50-mile wide coastal region rain can fall at any time of the year though totals are only high in southern coastal Bahia where cacao is raised. As one travels westward, the yearly rainfall total diminishes significantly. The interior Bahia is located in what is called the Polygon of Drought and this is primarily the region covered in this presentation. It is an area rich in succulent plants. For example, the county of Morro do Chapéu, itself, is the habitat of over thirty succulent species.

Nels is a native of Merced, California. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Latin American Studies in 1973 from UCSB. Nels is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. In 2012 he retired from the department of International Relations of UCLA Medical Center after a 37-year career.

In 1976 Nels was awarded a Rotary Foundation ambassadorial scholarship to study Brazilian literature at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte. He has traveled widely in Brazil on fifteen subsequent trips during which he has taken every opportunity to botanize. He joined the CSSA in 1984 and the board in 2015. He has been the newsletter editor of Sunset Succulent Society for eleven years and a member of the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society, the La Ballona Bromeliad Society, the Culver City Gesneriad Society and is president of the Westchester Chapter of the American Begonia Society. Nels serves on the board of California Poets in schools and through his work helps to promote the teaching of poetry composition in grades K-12 throughout the state. Nels has a special interest in the genus *Dyckia* and has grown dozens of species and hybrids from seed. He also enjoys growing plants in the genera of *Al-oe*, *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Gasteria*, *Parodia*, *Rebutia* and *Sinningia*.



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1st VP, Programs

Marquita Elias

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera

3rd VP, Special Events

John Martinez

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Cheryl White

LACSS.contact@gmail.com

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Director 1 Odd Years

Membership

Danielle Duboff

Director 2, Even Years

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Show Committee

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Susan Phillips

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Cactus Chronicle Editor

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CSSA Representative

John Matthews

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Kyle Williams

Drawing & Plant Procurement

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John Suciu

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Natalie Welsh

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Chris Rogers

Cactus Chronicle Distribution

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

Holiday Party Chairperson

Barbara Hall

Holiday Party Awards

Procurement

Gerald Reichert

Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's Message

August, 2015

Let me start off with a reminder to bring some succulent cuttings to the August meeting for the upcoming Skirball Cultural Center project. They have been very appreciative of our support and this gives us an opportunity to catch the interest of kids with a minimum of effort. Rather than leave them outside with the freebie offerings, please bring them inside to me. No cacti or Euphorbias, please. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Many of you remember Mr. Fertilizer at our Festival. He was very generous to donate one opened bag of Kellogg's Palm, Cactus and Citrus Organic All Purpose Indoor & Outdoor Mix and one bag of Gardner & Bloome Organic Palm, Cactus & Citrus Organic Planting Mix to share with our members. You will find these bags outside the Garden Center near the Freebie table. Bring a bag or other container to put your dirt in. A scoop will be provided.

Go to this website for a beautiful time-lapse show of blooms opening:
<http://www.buzzfeed.com/rachelwmiller/watching-these-cactus-flowers-bloom-is-completely-mesmerizin#.soWYZ2eIB>

Need I say more about the Intercity Show and Sale? LACSS is one of three Clubs to sponsor the largest Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale in the US. I would like to say "the world" but haven't a clue as to the size of any other C&S international shows. Perhaps some of our more traveled members could shed some light on that issue...

Regardless, this means that 1/3 of the plants, 1/3 of the volunteers, 1/3 of the participants should be LACSS members. Although I think I am singing to the choir.....I know everyone reading this message will make every attempt to participate in some way to help continue the success of this fantastic event. Any and all plants that you brought for our POM are definitely qualified to participate in the Intercity Show! And I know many of you have plants that would love to strut their stuff and would appreciate being shown off at the Intercity Show.

Recently, our Club received box-loads of older journals from various sources. I have started cataloging some of them and have enjoyed the pleasure of seeing the original articles written by some of the very famous names in the cactus and succulent world. One of the best surprises was the opening of a journal titled "Desert Plant Life – Official Publication of American Succulent Societies" of which Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society was one of the founding three members. Very exciting!!! When the cataloging is complete, we will place some in our library and make the rest available to our members. Stay tuned for more exciting news.

See you in a few days.
Joyce

July Plant of the Month

Plant of the Month 2015

August

Eriosyce, Neochilenia,
Neoporteria
Lithops

September

Ceriodes (N. America)
Didiereaceae

October

Miniatures

November

Crests and Monstrose

December

Holiday Party

Plant of the Month 2016

January

Blossfeldia, Frailea ,
Yavia
Bulbs

February

Gymnocalycium
Clusters
Aeonium

March

Echinocereus
Conophytum

April

Parodia, Notocactus
Haworthia

May

Small cactus staged as
a miniature
Small succulent staged
as a miniature

June

Favorite

July

Rebutia, Sulcorebutia
Weingartia

August

Astrophytum
Adenium

Succulent -- Pachypodium (Madagascar)

Rookie

First	Kim Jacobi	Pachypodium lamerei
Second	Linda Holub	Pachypodium
Third	DiAne Cabanne	Pachypodium lamerei

Open

First	Artie Chavez	Pachypodium makayense
Second	Artie Chavez	Pachypodium brevicaule
Third	Artie Chavez	Pachypodium baronii v. windorsii
Third	John Matthews	Pachypodium geayi

Cactus -- Echinocactus, Ferocactus

Rookie

First	Sonia V.	Echinocactus gracilis v. coloratus
Second	Linda Holub	Ferocactus glaucesens
Third	Jennifer Bensi	Ferocactus latispinus

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Echinocactus polycephalus
Second	Kim Thorpe	Ferocactus chrysacanthus
Third	Barbara Hall	Ferocactus chrysacanthus ssp. rubispinus
Third	Barbara Hall	Ferocactus chrysacanthus

Open

First	John Matthews	Echinocactus grusonii monstrose
Second	John Matthews	Echinocactus horizonthalonius

Lithops



Lithops otzeniana

For this month's succulent we look at a genus everyone is familiar with, *Lithops*, the Living Stones. It belongs to the Aizoaceae which also includes some plants anyone can tell are related, like *Conophytum* and *Pleiospilos*, as well as plants not as similar, such as woody, branched caudiciforms like *Mestoklema*. There are approximately 36 species of *Lithops*, all of which have the same basic form of a small, stemless, fat plant with patterning on top and a fissure down the middle that is mostly buried in the soil. What makes the genus so interesting is how much variation you can have within an extremely similar basic body plan.

All *Lithops* are native to southern Africa. In terms of countries, virtually every wild *Lithops* is native to either South Africa or Namibia. A few small populations are known from Botswana as well. This range makes sense with *Lithops* preference for arid regions with low humidity and comparatively cooler nights than you'd find further north in the more tropical zones. They prefer to grow in open rocky areas with mineral soils in full sun. Exceptions exist, but in cultivation all species have similar requirements, though some are touchier to mistreatment than others.

While *Lithops* likes full sun in its native habitat, it likes protection from hot afternoon sun in cultivation. Why is this? For one, we like to grow them higher than they would be in the wild. That means more of the plant is exposed to the hot sun. Also, in a pot the soil can heat up quite a bit, stressing the roots. In the wild you usually only see the tops of the plants sticking up out of the soil. That means most of the plant is protected from the sun. As the sun can only heat the very uppermost layer of soil, most of the plant is insulated from the heat. During dormancy in the hottest times of year the plant shrinks down even further, almost completely sinking below the soil in some cases. Interestingly, the tops of *Lithops* are often windowed which allows filtered sun throughout the plant. This means even parts of the plant below the soil can photosynthesize.



Lithops fulviceps in habitat



Lithops leslei rubrobrunnea

Almost everyone likes *Lithops*. How could you not? They are cute and strange, plus they stay small and are sold everywhere. However, many new and even somewhat experienced growers stay away from them believing they are hard to grow. They really aren't so long as you can follow a few simple rules. Put them in a very well draining mix as soggy soil leads to rot. Give them good light as they will get stretched in the shade. Most importantly, know when to water them and when to not. They have two dormancy periods in our climate. One is during the winter. If it is cold and wet out, keep them dry. You don't have to worry about the cold itself though as they can take light frost. Then water in the spring when the weather starts to warm and keep going to mid-summer. When it starts getting hot around this time of year let them go completely dry again.

In short, if the weather is nice, water. If we are in our cold season or our hottest season then keep them dry. Even if they shrivel a bit it is no big deal, they'll plump up again when the time is right. Everything about them is designed to withstand drought.

-Kyle Williams

Eriosyce

Eriosyce is a genus of cacti from Chile and parts of Peru and Argentina. They are popular among cactus enthusiasts as they are small, easy to grow and many of the species have colorful bodies and interesting spines. Most species start out globular, with some staying that way and clumping readily, while others slowly become columnar. At least one species, *E. aurata*, becomes large and round somewhat similar to a Golden Barrel. The name *Eriosyce* means "wooly fruit," one of the distinctive characteristics of the group. The genus, in its current form, is a relatively recent taxonomic change from up to eleven small genera into a single medium size genus of about 35 species. Of those many genera, *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* are the best known to growers.



Eriosyce villosa

Eriosyce is a great example of how good taxonomy can work. As a taxonomist by training, I can assure you that professional taxonomists do not change names for the sake of change. It is because intensive research, often spanning several years, shows that a nomenclatural change is in the best interest of science.



Eriosyce tenebrica in habitat

In this case we have lots of different genera because numerous taxonomists, over the last century or so, looked at these plants piecemeal, often using only dry specimens in a museum, or only seeing a small number of species in habitat. They did their best with what they had, but without the big picture it is easy to think you have something unique that deserves its own genus. Then came along a taxonomist who decided to really focus on this group and spent extensive time in the field seeing them in the wild. Once he was able to study the full range of variation within and between species, it became clear to him that they really were just a single genus. A different researcher did a DNA study (phylogeny) of these species and also came to the conclusion they were all closely related and should be a genus. The combination of field work and laboratory study necessitated the change that led to 11 different genera being combined into one, *Eriosyce*.

A takeaway of this for the average grower is that if you have any cacti labeled as *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* you should change them to *Eriosyce*.

I discuss this not to try to turn you into a taxonomist, but to help explain why a name you are familiar with has changed. Must you follow a name change? Of course not, but don't justify your refusal by claiming scientists just like to change names. Please note that I'm referring to professional or very serious amateur taxonomists (the latter being the case for *Eriosyce*) that back up their claims with solid data and publish in respected journals. Bad taxonomy does exist, but it usually has telltale signs.

All of the species of *Eriosyce* are small enough to be potted plants, with some of the bigger ones also working as small landscape plants for a succulent garden. They take general cactus care though they can be especially sensitive to overwatering, as most species have tap roots. Well-draining soil is a must. The species with colorful bodies are usually at their best in high light (protect from afternoon sun) and may turn greenish in lower light. Most species can take the occasional light frosts we get in this region.



Eriosyce napina

-Kyle Williams

It is very exciting and rewarding to see our meeting attended by a standing-room-only crowd! Among our regular members were many visitors and new members.

The Plant of the Month was lightly populated but the quality of plants was exceptional. Manny did his usual informative and entertaining job of describing the winners and the preview plants for next month.

Announcements included the reading of the “Thank You” card from the Skirball Cultural Center for our generous supply of succulents for their kids’ projects. They are so appreciative that they have made a third request. We will do our best. To our members: Please bring any surplus succulent cuttings (no cacti or Euphorbias) to the August 6 meeting to accommodate this request. Joyce will collect them and deliver them to the Skirball Center.

John Matthews presented information on the upcoming Intercity Show and Sale. This year’s Intercity t-shirts are available for sale. John stressed the fun and importance of participating in the Show portion of the event. Any plant that you brought to our POM competition should be entered at the Intercity Show. (Last year, LACSS fared quite well and we have high expectations for this year). Volunteers are also needed. Work shifts are scheduled in one hour increments. Even if you do not sign up, you may just show up and volunteer. And don’t forget to sign up for the Saturday night dinner and auction, contact Evelyn Stevens.

Barbara Hall gave a summary of the CSSA Show and Sale at the Huntington. Highlights included the Golden Barrel themed t-shirts for the volunteers to denote the 50th Anniversary of the CSSA/ Huntington Show and Sale. The most plant entries (619), ever! High point honors included LACSS members Barbara Hall, Karen and Martin Ostler, Kathryn Boorer, Peter Walkowiak won total high points. Attendance was excellent despite of the confusion created by the new entrance requirements.

Greg DeChirico, our speaker, not only presented a very interesting program on Tillandsias, but brought many unusual plants for sale. He was, also, very generous by providing many plants for our raffle. Thanks to Greg for sharing his time and expertise with us.

See you at the next meeting on August 6.

Annual Inter-City Show and Sale NEEDS Entrants

The 30th Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show is less than a month away. This is one of the stellar events in the Cactus and Succulent World, with a worldwide reputation for the quality and quantity of entries. The show is so well known that people are coming from as far away as India and Korea to see the show, visit the Arboretum and attend the sale. The Inter-City Show pioneered the concept of Walks and Talks adding an important educational component to the show. There will be great talks on both days.

The Inter-City Show has a well-deserved reputation for the place to see one of a kind plants, but more importantly, it has the reputation as the place where plants are grown to standards of excellence that are impossible to exceed.

With this in mind, the Inter-City Show is also one of the easiest and most encouraging to enter. There are three classes, Novice, Advance and Open. Novice is anyone who has won less than 40 first places in recognized shows, Advanced in anyone who has won more than 40, and Open is for anyone who wants to compete at the highest level. This show is one of the main sources of new members for all three clubs. A little known secret is that it is the novice entrants that do the most to encourage new members to join the clubs and to enter future shows. We need more novice entrants.

Entries can be brought in from 1 to 7 on Wednesday August 5, 8 AM to 8 PM on Thursday August 6 and 8 AM to 5 PM on Friday August 7. Judging starts at 5 PM on August 7th and everything needs to be on the tables by then. There are always plenty of people to help with any identification problems, so don't let a lost label keep you from entering a plant. Advice and help on last minute grooming is always available, and there are plenty of people to help make sure your plants are placed in the right categories. We do everything we can to make this the easiest and friendliest show to enter.

The sale is one of the highlights of the Show. It will be open from 1 PM on Friday. We have dealers from Northern California, San Diego, Tucson, Phoenix, New Mexico as well as local specialists. There will be an amazing selection of wonderful plants for sale as well as on the show tables.

We have already heard from people coming from Florida, India, Korea and elsewhere to see the show. Please help make this an event that they will always remember. We have lots of tables to fill. We would love to have your plants, but more importantly we would like you and your friends to attend.

Thanks in advance
The Inter-City Show Committee

Inter-City Show and Sale August 8-9, 2015

By now you should have identified all your show plants and repotted as needed. Don't wait until the day or two before you bring your plants to the show to water them. Wet plants leave stains on the tablecloths that don't seem to come out. All those great plants you entered in our LACSS show (and your June POM favorite plants) and the CSSA show should be a good start. There are novice, advanced and open categories, so don't feel intimidated. Entry tags and show schedule will be available at our August meeting and at the show. We have 103-108 show tables to fill so bring lots of show plants. You may want to bring a little extra of each top dressing you use to handle those travel mishaps. Don't forget the Golden Sweeps so you may want to bring 3 or 4 plants in a category. Plant entry times are Wednesday August 5--1:00 to 7:00 PM, Thursday August 6--8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and on Friday August 7--8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Taking down your tables starts at 5:00 PM on Sunday, August 9. You may want to bring extra packing material since things may not pack as well going home in the rush. Be sure to wear your club badge so you can enter the show/sale area for free.

The LACSS makes a significant amount of money from sponsoring the IC show and sale. That results from great sales and a great show to attract visitors. Both the show and sale run smoothly only with a lot of volunteer help. I would like to see the same amount of LACSS volunteer help at the IC show/sale that we had for our own show/sale. PLEASE sign up to volunteer/clerk at our August mtg. Or call me (661-714-1052) if you can't attend our August meeting. Also remember that early sales on Fri. are only open to recognized volunteers or documented show entrants.

For more IC information, see the LACSS July Chronicle or the IC newsletter from the Festivals/shows link on the LACSS website.

We still need a videographer for the show (see below). This would be a big boost to the publicity for the show/sale.

John Matthews, Inter-City Co-chair

Videographer Needed for Inter-City Show

Tom Glavich needs someone to do videography for the Inter-City Show and Sale. Job description follows. Please contact Tom at 626-798-2430 if you can take over these very important tasks.

Job Description follows: Make a video of the Inter-City Show, emphasizing plants and in particular, blue ribbon and trophy table plants. Also pictures of the sales area and show area, but not focusing on anyone without permission. Some simple editing capabilities will be required, along with a steady hand. Add low key legal musical background, and upload to YouTube. Can attend judging, set-up etc as able. Quietest time is Sunday Morning before the show opens. Steadiness is the key and ability to edit out extraneous background noise. No video during auction or dinner.

(There is an older YouTube of the show, but it is so jerky that you can get motion sickness trying to watch it.)

REMEMBRANCES by Walt Wegner

This short article is directed to our new members who may be less experienced. Are you a plant junkie like I am? I have been collecting succulents from a very early age but from age 18-42 I was a guest of Uncle Sam in the USAF so I didn't have many plants to talk about. Moving to Woodland Hills in 1967 got me started again. Just look at our yard. What do I collect? Well, my tastes changed over the years. At one time I have had the full collection of Schick Echinopsis hybrids, lost some, some never bloomed, and others grew out of shape. During the last month or so they have all been in bloom. Over the years I have collected Euphorbias still love them. My favorites now are the Euphorbia Milli Thai hybrids. I consider myself a "duffer" in the succulent world. We all can't be as accomplished as some but we can enjoy our plants. My age is slowing me down now so I do a lot of watching and puttering. My advice, go to local shows, attend our meetings and use our library. Have fun and meet other hobbyists.



Euphorbia milli

Succulents for the Mind

"A beautiful plant is like having a friend around the house."

Beth Ditto

We have two new wonderful additions to our library. "The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums" by Brent Horvath was kindly donated by Frank de Greef. The second book is the recently published "Southwest Deserts - California and Nevada" by Duke Benadom.

Susan Phillips, Librarian

Mentor Program: One-on-One Coaching

This is to announce an extension to the Mentoring Program. Over the last several years the LACSS Board has discussed expanding the Mentoring Program to include One-on-One Coaching. The vision is to provide One-on-One Coaching at a member's home. After several rounds of discussion the following guidelines have been developed:

The program is directed to provide coaching in basic cactus and succulent care/cultivation for our less experienced members.

The program is NOT intended to provide plant (species) specific advice unless the mentor is well versed in that particular plant.

The coaching may take place at the member's home (House Calls) so that issues specific to that location; such as shade, heat and watering could be discussed.

Mentors will not be expected to make more than 2 house calls per year.

House calls will be provided by the geographically nearest mentor.

Initially, I'll act as the focal point for member requests and contact the mentors directly, but will leave issues such as timing for the house call up to the individuals.

In addition to their service as Mentors the following members have cheerfully volunteered to act as One-on-One Coaches in this program.

Artie Chavez
Barbara Hall
John Martinez
Manny Rivera

Nils Schirmacher
Sandy Chase
Steve Frieze

Thanks to our Mentors who have supported this important program. Please contact me directly to arrange your own individual One-on-One Coaching by one of our experienced Mentors.

If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of the Mentoring Program, please contact me directly.

John Suciu
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Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2015

- August 8-9** 30th Annual Intercity Show & Sale at Ayres Hall & Lawn Area, 9am-5pm Daily
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia **Info** Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or
John Matthews (661) 714-1052
- September 5** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
- September 6** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5
Rancho Los Alamitos,
6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 **Info:** (310) 922-6090
- October 24-25** Palomar Show & Sale Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4 at San Diego Botanic Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas **Info:** hciservices@gmail.com (858) 382-1797
- November 7 -8** San Gabriel Valley Winter Show & Sale - Ayres Hall
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia **Info** Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or John Matthews
(661) 714-1052, Manny Rivera (626) 579-7954

General Meeting

Thursday, August 6th, 2015

**Program: The 2008 CSSA trip to Brazil: The Plants of the
Northeastern State of Bahia"**
Presented by: Nels Christianson